

REPORT TO COUNCIL

REPORT OF: ACCESS & ENGAGEMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER

REPORT NO. DEM040

DATE: 22 April 2010

TITLE:	Appointments to Committees of the Council, the Policy Development Groups	
KEY DECISIONS OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL	n/a	
PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Councillor Ray Auger: Portfolio Holder for Access and Engagement (Democratic Representation)	
CONTACT OFFICER	Lena Shuttlewood, Democracy Services Manager	
INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT Equality and Diversity	Carried out and appended to report? Not Applicable	Full impact assessment required? No
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	This report is publicly available on the Council's website from the Your Council and Democracy page	
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	N/A: Constitutional procedures	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) In accordance with the legislative provisions regarding political balance and the relevant constitutional provisions, the Council appoints members to its committees, policy development groups (PDGs);
- (2) Upon advice of the Leader as to the suitability and merit of candidates, the Council appoints the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each committee (except the Standards Committee) and PDGs.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Under Council Procedure Rule 1.1 (viii) relating to the Annual meeting of the Council, the Council is required to appoint members to the Policy Development groups, the Standards Committee and such other committees it considers

appropriate to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions.

Under Rules 1.2 (iii) and (iv), at the annual meeting, the Council will decide the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules and receive nominations of Councillors to serve on each committee or group.

The Constitution provides that no member be appointed to a committee or panel, or appointed as a Chairman or Vice-Chairman who has not undertaken the relevant mandatory training. Therefore no appointment should be made which is in breach of the constitutional rules: Part 2, article 4, rule 4.2(iii), and Council procedure rule 1.1 (viii).

In addition, Cabinet members and those appointed to the Policy Development Groups may not be appointed to the Scrutiny Committee.

The schedule of committees is set out below:

Committee	No of members	Political Balance Applies?	Training
Resources Policy Dev Group (PDG)	7	Yes	Compulsory
Engagement PDG	7	Yes	Compulsory
Communities PDG	7	Yes	Compulsory
Scrutiny Committee	11	Yes	Compulsory
Development Control	17	Yes	Compulsory
Licensing	11	Yes	Compulsory
Constitution Committee	5	Yes	Discretionary
Governance and Audit Committee	5 (with option for one external member)	Yes	Compulsory
Standards Committee	4 (with 2 external members)	No	Compulsory

Appendix A shows the proportionate calculations and the seating allocation.

The current committee memberships are shown at Appendix B.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Alternative arrangements for appointing members to the committees and PDG's can be approved only if no member of the Council votes against.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Members' basic allowance and special responsibility payments are made in accordance with the current Members' Allowance Scheme which is currently under review by the South Holland Independent Remuneration Panel.

5. RISK AND MITIGATION (INCLUDING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND DATA QUALITY)

None

8. ISSUES ARISING FROM EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

None

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

None

10. COMMENTS OF THE SECTION 151 OFFICER

Members' allowance and travel expenses will need to be contained within the 2010/11 budget previously agreed by Council.

11. COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

The rules relating to political balance are contained at Sections 15 – 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Section 16 contains provision for the authority to make appointments so as to give effect to such wishes as to who is to be appointed, where they are allocated to a particular group, as are expressed by that group. In such circumstances it is possible for a particular group, which may make an appointment in accordance with the rules relating to political balance, to make an appointment from another group.

12. APPENDICES: A: political composition calculations; B: current membership

13. CONTACT OFFICER

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